

REVIEWS.

LECTURES ON THE ACTION OF MEDICINES: BEING THE COURSE OF LECTURES ON PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS DELIVERED AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL DURING THE SUMMER SESSION OF 1896. By T. LAUDER BRUNTON, M.D., D.Sc. (Edin.), LL.D. (Hon.) (Aberd.), F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Associate Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Honorary Member of the Pharmaceutical Society; Physician and Lecturer on Pharmacology and Therapeutics to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Pp. xv., 673. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897.

THESE lectures are intended to give a general sketch of the mode in which drugs act upon the body, and should receive criticism from the stand-point of the author. As he very pertinently remarks, "any man who tries to pass an examination upon them alone will not be at all likely to get the maximum number of marks," yet the very attractive style of the author invests many of the dry bones of therapeutics with the interest of more congenial, though less important, subjects. Even if the student must turn to a more systematic text-book, that the sum of his knowledge shall equal the demands of school or State, he will enter upon his more serious study with greater enthusiasm. It is the physician who should read this book, not because it contains much that is new or startling, but for the many suggestions so frequently encountered. For him, more than for the student, the form of lectures is desirable. He can overlook the unimportant and rest when *causerie* displaces instruction, and in its perusal in many instances broaden his horizon and readjust his perspective. Repetitions, then, need not be irksome, nor inadequate treatment become disappointing, for there is enough within the covers of this work to interest even the expert therapist. As the strong points of this book—its suggestiveness, its impressiveness, and its directness in statements of fact—come from the personality of the lecturer, so do its weak points depend upon the form which it takes—that of lectures. These are its sketchiness in places, its failure to record present knowledge, for instance, that upon hypnotics and anæsthetics, and finally the insertion of too many anecdotes, based upon personal experiences, some of sufficient variety to suggest that his lot has been marked by unusual circumstances.

We could wish that recent chemical nomenclature had been adhered to. But this can be overlooked when we find that "transfusion" has replaced the usual "perfusion" and that "sternutories" (p. 237) is almost the only error in orthography. We do not recognize as peculiarly an Americanism that people cough so severely that they "look as though they were going to 'cough up their immortal souls'" (p. 279),

for this would involve a discussion as to the limiting adjective, but to our mind the statement that at the explosion of an oxygen cylinder a "boy was completely blown up by it" (p. 284) is equally objectionable.

In general, the author's facts are well established; exception, probably, could be well taken to the vessels of the brain losing their tone (p. 185). Even if the author's fancy may lead him away from the facts which are strung together by it, we must not lose sight of his earnestness in purpose, though the manner may seem trifling. An addition of real value is found in the illustrations, many of which are both striking and original.

We have read this volume with great interest and profit. We recommend it to the physician, not so much to the student, for him to read and ponder, and he will find that he is opening up new fields and more thoroughly tilling old ones.

R. W. W.

ESSENTIALS OF OBSTETRICS. By CHARLES JEWETT, A.M., M.D., Sc.D.

Illustrated by eighty wood-cuts and three colored plates. 12mo. pp. 350.

New York and Philadelphia: Lea Bros. & Co., 1897.

In the preface to this volume Dr. Jewett distinctly states that he has endeavored to place concisely and clearly in a systematic and logical arrangement the essentials of obstetrics, within easy grasp of the student. He believes that such works have value in teaching, within their proper limit. He has succeeded in his undertaking, and his book forms an excellent introduction to a larger treatise.

His description of the anatomy and physiology of the female genitalia is excellent. We note that in computing the period of gestation he prefers to take the dimensions of the gravid uterus rather than estimate the length of the fetus. In treating of the diagnosis of pregnancy he tabulates the causes for the cessation of menstruation which might be confused with early pregnancy. He carefully describes Hegar's sign, and illustrates the method of examination. In estimating the excreta of the pregnant patient, he believes that quantitative tests for urea furnish the best evidence of the activity of the kidneys. Our experience leads us to fully agree with him in this belief. In treating of pelvic measurements we fail to find a method of obtaining the oblique pelvic diameters by external examination. We have used to advantage the measurement from the posterior-superior spine of the ilium of one side to the anterior-superior spine of the opposite ilium.

In dealing with the presentations and positions of the fetus, we should imagine that the student might be confused by the author's statement of four positions for each presentation and his description of face presentations. It seems very desirable that the number of positions be made as small as possible, and that the clinical phenomena of rotation be made as clear as possible. Our experience indicates that students learn best the phenomena of labor and the reasons for them in this way. In describing the rotation of the head, it is said to be due chiefly to the slope of the lateral halves of the pelvic floor, while the author also recognizes the importance of a firm pelvic floor.

The statement of methods of examination is interesting, and accom-

panied by a number of original illustrations. Minute directions are given for preparing for labor, and we note his caution that mercurial irrigation, if used at all, should be followed by douching with plain sterilized water, to avoid danger of mercurial poisoning. For internal examinations, the author has found the dorsal position best; we have often been able, by turning the patient on the side, to pull back the pelvic floor and make a better examination than in the dorsal position.

The author prefers chloroform for obstetric anesthesia, and ether for operative cases. He would close lacerations of the cervix when they are accompanied by bleeding. In his description of the preparation of silk in melted paraffin for sutures, we are reminded of the usage of a surgeon long since dead, who employed wax for a similar purpose. The closure of perineal lacerations is illustrated by diagrams.

In treating of the puerperal state, the importance of thorough examination to ascertain that recovery is perfect is urged. The patient is allowed to get out of bed six or eight hours after labor to use a commode, rather than allow the catheter to be passed.

The care of the infant is briefly but clearly given, and Pasteurization of milk in place of full sterilization is advised.

The pathology of pregnancy and of the fetus follows next, and concise directions are given for the treatment of abortion. Ectopic gestation and the pernicious vomiting of pregnancy are also described. The pathology of pregnancy receives adequate treatment, and contraction of some degree in the pelvis is said to be present in from 10 to 15 per cent. of all cases. In describing the indications for various operative procedures, symphysiotomy is said to be applicable when the true conjugate is above three inches and there is but little contraction in the other diameters. The same operation is again recommended in impacted and irreducible brow presentation. Abnormalities of the fetus next receive attention. Hemorrhage and eclampsia are thoroughly treated; in the latter the author considers fluid extract of *veratrum viride* a useful prophylactic. He considers it of great value in preventing the paroxysm.

The pathology of the puerperal state naturally includes a description of puerperal septic infection. In the treatment of this condition the value of strychnia is thoroughly recognized.

In obstetric surgery occurs a description of the author's method for performing symphysiotomy; he chooses the so-called open operation, and illustrates it with two excellent drawings. He distinguishes *coelio-hysterotomy* from *coelio-hysterectomy*, and states that the latter has frequently superseded Porro's operation.

As a whole, the book contains within convenient compass the essentials of modern obstetric practice, and may well be used by the student to prepare him for reading a larger treatise.

E. P. D.

THE EYE AS AN AID IN GENERAL DIAGNOSIS. A Handbook for the Use of Students and General Practitioners. Octavo, pp. 248. By E. H. LINNELL, M.D. Philadelphia: The Edwards & Docker Co., 1897.

THIS work presents the wide relations of the eye in general diagnosis in a way that is likely to command the attention of the mass of general

practitioners. These relations have been understood and appreciated more or less completely by those especially engaged in ophthalmic practice, and attempts have been made to call to them the attention of others, especially the attention of general practitioners, as in Part III., "Diseases of the Eye in Relation to General Diseases," in Nettleship's work on *Diseases of the Eye*, and the chapter by Norris in Pepper's *System of Medicine*. But we believe that nowhere have the essential points been presented so clearly, and with fair completeness, in a separate work of moderate size until the publication of this one.

The book is divided into three parts. The first, including the "Eye Symptoms of Nervous and Constitutional Disease," closes with an alphabetically arranged table of such diseases, with the characteristic eye-symptoms of each. The second part, entitled "Reflex Neuroses," gives a good summary of the remote effects ascribed to eye-strain, a subject that has given rise to considerable literature during the last few years. Part III. deals with "Ocular Affections of Toxic Origin," and the work concludes with a partial bibliography and a good index.

The work is well written and sound in its teaching, although in the part on "Reflex Neuroses" it seems to attach to the deviations from perfect muscular balance an importance that ophthalmic surgeons are by no means agreed to accord to them.

The author is one of the collaborators of the *Homœopathic Eye, Ear, and Throat Journal*, yet a careful reading of the book might not reveal this, for there is not the slightest indication of the peculiar views of Hahnemann. The authorities quoted are nearly all familiar leaders in the literature of modern ophthalmology, and even when the above-mentioned journal is referred to the sectarian part of its name is omitted.

The book has been well printed except that the number and size of its pages might have been reduced somewhat without the sacrifice of anything more important than blank paper. It is illustrated with a few good diagrams, chiefly of the field of vision and nerve-tracts concerned in vision.

E. J.

LECTURES ON ANGINA PECTORIS AND ALLIED STATES. By WILLIAM OSLER, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; author of *A Practice of Medicine*, *Lectures on the Diagnosis of Abdominal Tumors*, etc. Pp. 155, with an appendix. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1897.

It has seemed to the present reviewer that in the review of medical writings there are times, of far too frequent occurrence, we fear, when the personality of the author, or the reviewer's conception of his personality, is the subject of criticism. In other words, the author is not separated from an impartial review of his work.

In the case of Dr. Osler, however, the individuality of his thought and style of expression render it most difficult for the reviewer to whom his personality is familiar to separate the man from his product. Nor does an attempt to accomplish this seem to us to be advisable, since that which creates the difficulty at the same time obviates the necessity for its correction.

In the monograph at present under consideration there is collected a